

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 20, 27, 28, 32, and 36 are amended. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the Amendment: 1) place the claims in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein as well as the reasons discussed in the personal interview; 2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and 3) place the application in better form for appeal, if necessary. Entry is thus requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 20, 27-30, and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claims 20, 27-28, and 32 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 20, 27-28, and 32 should be in condition for allowance, along with claims 29-30, which depend from claim 28.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5 and 13-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kanazawa in view of Weber. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, at least two dummy electrodes, being provided at the non-display area outside an effective display part of the plasma display panel, for supplying the non-display area with charged particles in the address interval. Neither Kanazawa nor Weber, taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests such features, or the claimed combination.

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The Examiner states that "Kanazawa (Figure 2) teaches at least two dummy electrodes (auxiliary electrodes 23a and 23b) (co. 4, lines 7-18)." However, elements 23a and 23b referred to by the Examiner are not dummy electrodes but rather transparent electrodes formed on the X and Y electrodes for reducing the resistance of the X and Y electrodes. Further, the auxiliary electrodes 23a and 23b are formed within the discharge space 26 for display, that is, within the effective display area of the plasma display panel. Further, the Examiner admits that "Kanazawa does not expressly teach that the at least two dummy electrodes [are] provided at the non-display area, for supplying the non-display area with charged particles in address interval." The Examiner then applies Weber.

However, Weber also fails to disclose or suggest at least two dummy electrodes provided at the non-display area outside an effective display part of the plasma display panel, for supplying the non-display area with charged particles in the address interval. That is, Weber is directed to a system and method for eliminating flicker in displays addressed at low frame rates. Weber teaches applying an address pulse to any one of the address lines while applying dummy address pulses to the rest of the address lines. See, for example, the Abstract of Weber, and col. 5, lines 9-48 and col. 6, lines 13-37. That is, Weber discloses, in col. 5, lines 56-60, that:

The dummy address pulses are applied to address electrodes that are approximately equally spaced from the active address line. This technique assumes that during any given address period, there can be only one active address line. During this same address period there can be almost any number of dummy address lines.

Thus, Weber is merely directed to a method of applying address pulses. Further, there is no disclosure or suggestion that any of the electrodes to which the address pulses are applied are at a non-display area outside an effective display part of the plasma display panel. Accordingly,

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Weber does not disclose or suggest at least two dummy electrodes, being provided at the non-display area outside an effective display part of the plasma display panel, as recited in independent claim 1, or the claimed combination.

Dependent claims 2-5 and 13-19, as well as dependent claim 33, are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features and the combination thereof.

The Office Action rejected claims 6-12, 21-26, 31, and 33-38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,181,305 to Nguyen et al., (hereinafter “Nguyen”) in view of Weber. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nguyen discloses a plasma display panel with pairs of sustain electrodes X,Y and address electrodes A. See Nguyen Fig. 1B. However, Nguyen at least fails to disclose or suggest a dummy electrode driver for applying a dummy pulse to dummy electrodes such that the dummy electrodes formed at the non-display area outside an effective display part of the plasma display panel can cause a first auxiliary discharge in the address interval, as recited in independent claim 6, or the claimed combination. That is, Nguyen fails to disclose or suggest any dummy electrode driver, let alone one for applying a dummy pulse to dummy electrodes such that dummy electrodes formed at the non-display area outside an effective display part of the plasma display panel can cause a first auxiliary discharge in an address interval, as recited in independent claim 6, or the claimed combination. Weber fails to cure the deficiencies of Nguyen, as discussed above Weber merely discloses a method of applying addresses pulses, and does not disclose or suggest providing any of the electrodes to which the address pulses are applied are at a non-display area outside of an effective display part of the plasma display panel.

Similarly, Nguyen and Weber, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest, with respect to independent claim 9, applying a pulse to a dummy electrode located in a non-display area outside a circumference of a display area of said plasma display panel and thus outside an effective display part of the plasma display panel, or the claimed combination. With respect to independent claim 12, Nguyen and Weber fail to disclose at least the feature of applying a dummy pulse to dummy electrodes positioned at a non-display area outside an effective display part of the plasma display panel causing a first auxiliary discharge that supplies discharge cells with charged particles, or the claimed combination. With respect to independent claim 36, Nguyen and Weber fail to disclose at least the features of dummy electrodes formed in parallel to said scanning/sustaining electrodes and said common sustaining electrodes at a non-display area outside an effective display part of the plasma display panel, and a dummy electrode driver that applies a dummy pulse to said dummy electrodes causing a first auxiliary discharge in an address interval, or the claimed combination. As mentioned above, neither Nguyen nor Weber disclose or suggest dummy electrodes in a non-display area outside an effective display part of the plasma display panel.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 6, 9, 12 and 36 are allowable over the applied prior art. Dependent claims 7-8, 10-11, 21-26, 34-35, and 37-38 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claims 6, 9, 12, and 36, from which they depend, as well as their added features, and the combinations thereof.

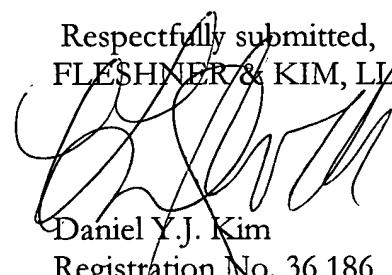
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes

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would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Carol L. Druzbick, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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